

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



April 22, 2003



*This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email [edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil](mailto:edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil).*

## EOD mission ends in “Ammo Alley”

by Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (Army News Service, April 21, 2003) — A mission started a year ago in Afghanistan ended April 15 when Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians destroyed two caches of ordnance in what has come to be called “Ammo Alley.”

The mission was delayed more than a year after three EOD technicians and a Special Forces soldier were killed in an explosion April 15, 2002 at the same site, 35 kilometers northwest of Kandahar Air Field.

“One of my good friends was killed there last year, Sgt Jamie Mulligans,” said Staff Sgt. Baylin Oswalt, an EOD team leader with the 731st Ordnance Company (EOD) from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. “We went through both phases of EOD school together, and then we were stationed together for a year in Korea. He was a real good friend of mine and this mission brought closure being able to go out to where he was killed and destroy that cache.”

Others who finished the mission recalled their fallen comrades.

“Everyone felt their loss. We’re a very tight-knit community so when some one dies in the line of duty, their name doesn’t just go on the memorial. We all remember them, whether we knew them from school or through friends.” Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Mclean, an EOD team leader with the 754th Ord. Co. (EOD) from Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

EOD teams from the 731st, 754th and 705th Ord. companies (EOD) rigged the two piles of ordnance with C-4 explosives, destroyed two large caches of Chinese-made Type 63, 107 mm fin-stabilized rockets, like the ones that are used in attacks against all the fire bases in Afghanistan, said Oswalt.



*Staff Sgt. Ernest Richter, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 731st EOD Company at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH, surveys his work, rigging a cache of 107mm rockets in “Ammo Alley” 35 Km northwest of Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. Three EOD technicians and a Special Forces Soldier were killed in an explosion while trying to destroy the same cache last year on April 15. (Photo by Cpl. Keith A Kluwe)*

Heavy equipment engineers that plowed a new road to the cache sites, and a safety around the sites supported the EOD teams. The roads gave a safe area for the EOD teams to rest and a safe route from the main road in the valley out to the sites.

“With caches in this country you have to watch out for booby-traps,” Mclean said. “We knew this site had been previously booby-trapped.... We used the bulldozer to sever any hard wired remote-controlled devices that might have been at the objective we were dealing with.”

In the long run, this mission into “Ammo Alley” will also keep weapons and ordnance out of the hand of people wishing to

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# U.S. not asking for long-term Iraqi bases

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 21, 2003 – The United States has neither asked nor considered asking a future Iraqi government for use of four air bases, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today.

Rumsfeld called a New York Times story that suggested such a thing “unhelpful.” He said such articles left people in the Middle East with the impression that the United States is planning to occupy the country. “Not so,” he said as he thumped the lectern at the Pentagon briefing studio. “It’s flat false.”

Rumsfeld said the United States went in to Iraq to change the regime, find and dispose of Saddam’s weapons of mass destruction and stop the country from threatening its neighbors. He said the subject of long-term use of the air bases has not come up during Pentagon discussions.

U.S. forces are using bases in the country – Baghdad International Airport, Tallil in southern Iraq, H-1 in western Iraq and Bashur in the north – as logistics hubs for coalition forces engaged in combat operations and to funnel humanitarian supplies.

The United States will consider the size of the American “footprint” in the area after consultation with allies in the region and outside of it. Rumsfeld did say it is his feeling fewer American service members would be needed in a Middle East without the threat of Saddam Hussein.

Inside Iraq, coalition forces continue to face resistance from the remnants of Saddam Hussein’s death squads and the foreign fighters. Rumsfeld said there are still some number of “dead-enders” that remain in the country.

“As the coalition works to remove the remnants of regime, the Iraqi

## EOD mission ends in “Ammo Alley” continued

destabilize the national and provincial governments, or cause harm to U.S. forces, officials said.

“We are denying the enemy use of the 107 mm rockets because it seems like they are weapon of choice for the most part,” said Lt. Col. Keith Angles, battalion commander of the 184th Ord. Battalion (EOD) from Ft. Gillam, Ga.. “It’s almost everyday we hear about one of our compounds getting a 107 mm rockets at it, so the more of those we dispose of, the less they are going to have to shoot at us.”

“Ammo Alley is still a big concern. There is still a lot of ammunition and ordnance out there that can be used by hostile Taliban or Al Qaeda, or anyone else that wants to do harm to coalition forces,” Mclean said.

There are still more than 20 known munitions cache sites in the valley.

(Editor’s note: by Cpl. Keith A. Kluwe is assigned to CTF82 Public Affairs.)

people are emerging from the shadow of Saddam’s tyranny to help coalition forces find death squads, uncover weapons caches, capture regime leaders, recover POWs and restore order and basic services,” he said.

The secretary stated that this spontaneous cooperation is growing all over the country, and called it “a sign of the growing trust between coalition forces and the majority of ordinary Iraqis.”

The secretary said that U.S. support for the men and women in uniform is heartwarming. The USO has distributed more than 80,000 CARE packages to men and women in Southwest Asia and delivered more than 100,000 calling cards to service members.

“I’m told that a man from North Carolina and a woman from Illinois found foster homes for pets of deploying forces and between them they’ve placed roughly 2,000 dogs, cats and at least one pot-bellied pig,” he said. He said there are hundreds of similar stories.

Finally the secretary thanked the families of those deployed overseas. “It can often be harder to be the one left behind, ... especially when the loved one is leaving for war,” he said. “In wartime, military families endure extended periods of separation, not knowing where their loved ones are, what they’re doing, and whether or not they are safe or in danger or whether they’re going to be coming home.

“These are burdens that the families of the men and women in uniform have carried in the course of this war,” he continued. “They’ve carried them for the country, and the country is grateful and proud of their service and sacrifice as well as that of our men and women in uniform.”



*U.S. Brigadier General Vincent Brooks shows a slide of a suicide bomber’s vest during a briefing at Central Command in Camp As-Sayliyah near Doha, April 22, 2003. Brooks said that the U.S.-led forces had found 800 suicide bomber vests in Iraq. Reuters photo.*

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# U.S. shifts to nation-building in Iraq

by Matt Kelley

WASHINGTON (AP) - Combat in Iraq is all but over, yet U.S. Army troops continue to stream into the country in an illustration of one of the ironies of current warfare: More soldiers often are needed to keep the peace than to fight the war.

The size of the U.S. military force in Baghdad dropped significantly this past weekend when Army soldiers took over from Marines in eastern parts of the Iraqi capital.

But those Marines didn't leave Iraq. They moved south to bolster other Marines providing security and humanitarian assistance in southern Iraq. Army units, including ones continuing to arrive in Iraq, will do the same in Baghdad and northern Iraq.

Top priorities for the U.S. military in Iraq now include searching for weapons of mass destruction and former Iraqi officials, as well as setting the conditions for a new Iraqi government to come to power.

Last week, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld described the military's role not as "nation building" but as helping in the transition from the overthrown government to a new one.

"What has to happen is, somebody has to try to create an environment that's sufficiently secure and hospitable to that kind of a change, but doing it without doing it in a manner that creates a dependency," Rumsfeld said in a town hall-style meeting with Pentagon workers.

Such work is called "Phase IV" or stability operations in military parlance. Much of the work will be done by the same troops that fought the war.

Other units called "civil affairs" forces specialize in these operations, and some accompanied the combat troops into battle. They're under the same military chain of command but specially trained and equipped to get food, water, shelter and medical care to needy populations and keep local rivalries from flaring into more violence.

U.S. allies also will help with the Phase IV efforts, Rumsfeld said Monday. Italy, for example, is sending 300 police, while the Czech Republic, Spain, Lithuania and Jordan are giving medical aid, he said.

There are civil affairs units spread throughout the military, and regular troops also have some training in such tasks. Still, civil affairs units have been among the most heavily used in the military, including most recently in Afghanistan. Rumsfeld said that fact could lead to changes in the military's structure.

"At the present time, an awful lot of the civil affairs people are in the reserves, which is not a good thing," Rumsfeld said last week. "If you're going to need those skills, you need some on active duty. You can't have them all in the reserves, or else you're going to call people up every other year, which isn't what they really sign up for."

Stability operations usually are not as dangerous as combat, but

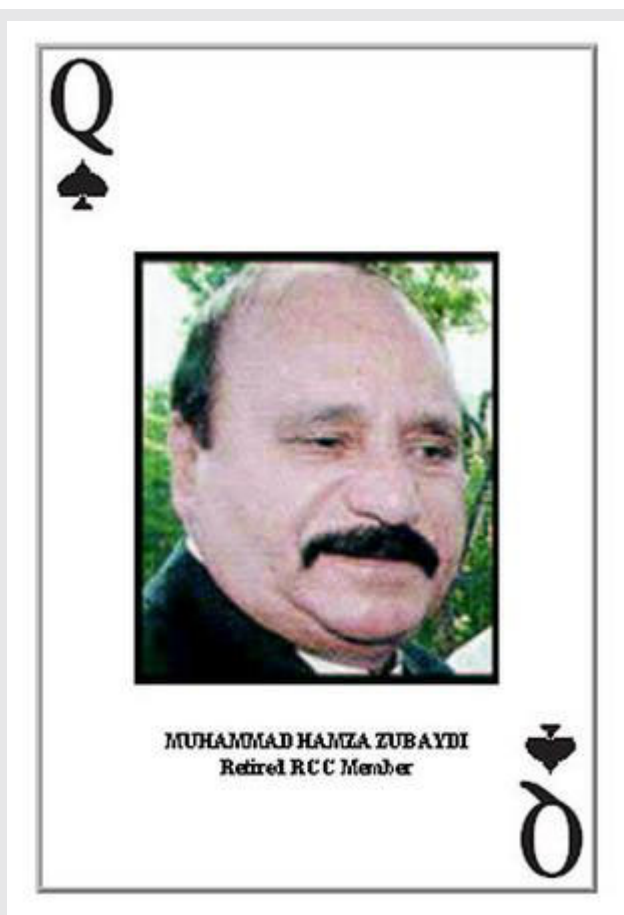
they can be just as demanding and require much more finesse.

"We're in a different phase now that is going to be a little tougher," said Air Force Lt. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, commander of the air war in Iraq. "The Army has a tough job ahead of them. They've got to stabilize Iraq and make it livable."

Soldiers in combat can rely on airstrikes against command and communications targets, as well as enemy troops. The work of policing and delivering aid, by contrast, must be done on the ground. That's a major reason why providing security and humanitarian aid can require more troops than actual combat.

For example, getting the electricity back on in Baghdad has required

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*Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi, known as Saddam Hussein's "Shiite Thug", appears on the queen of spades in the set of playing cards issued by the U.S. military authorities to help capture the most wanted leaders of Saddam's former regime. Al-Zubaydi, known as the "Shiite Thug" for his role in Iraq's bloody suppression of the Shiite Muslim uprising of 1991, was arrested Monday, April 21, 2003, the U.S. Central Command said. The government spelling is on card. (AP Photo/Department of Defense, HO)*



# U.S. finds \$600 million cash in Baghdad

by Nicole Winfield

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar (AP) - U.S. soldiers trying to stop looting in Baghdad ran into a huge cache of cash - more than \$600 million in \$100 dollar bills hidden behind a false wall.

Using forklifts to handle the heavy, tightly-wrapped packets of new bills, soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division hauled the money away for safekeeping, the U.S. Central Command confirmed Tuesday. The Los Angeles Times reported last week that the 3rd Infantry found \$656 million in a Tigris River neighborhood where senior Baath party and Republican Guard officials lived.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy operations director at Central Command, also confirmed that U.S. troops have negotiated a cease-fire with the People's Mujahedeen, a group supported by Saddam Hussein's regime that has been fighting to overthrow the government of Iran for 17 years.

Members of the militia were moving their vehicles into temporary military facilities around Baqubah, about 25 miles northeast of Baghdad.

The United States and the European Union have classified the Mujahedeen as a terrorist group.

Security issues continue to be a major concern. U.S. forces have found over 800 suicide vests in several locations, Brooks said.

## U.S. shifts to nation-building in Iraq continued

engineering to get power plants running as well as working with technocrats from Saddam Hussein's former regime who were in charge of the power infrastructure. In securing the capital, U.S. armored vehicles have escorted Iraqi police patrols, and U.S. troops have protected hospitals and other sites from looting.

An illustration of what can go wrong came April 10 in Najaf, a southern city that's one of the holiest sites in the world to Shiite Muslims, who make up a majority of Iraq's population. Two Shiite clerics - one who had supported Saddam's regime, the other the son of a supreme ayatollah Saddam had persecuted - were to meet in reconciliation.

Eager to publicize the symbolic meeting, the U.S. military flew a helicopter load of journalists to witness the encounter. But an angry crowd hacked both clerics to death just before the reporters arrived.

The Army's 4th Infantry Division, the latest to arrive in Iraq, is helping patrol Baghdad with the 3rd Infantry Division and elements of the 101st and 82nd Airborne divisions. Elements of those Army divisions also are working in northern Iraq, along with special operations forces and members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

The 3rd Infantry and airborne elements - the first Army units into Iraq - won't be able to leave for at least several weeks, military officials say. The Army's 1st Armored Division is preparing to enter Iraq in the meantime, though without its now unneeded artillery.

"Coalition forces are finding or being guided to caches of improvised explosive devices," he said. "We remain concerned about the possibility of suicide attacks."

Explosives had been inserted into the vests' pockets or sometimes sewn into the fabric. Some of the vests had packets containing ball bearings to increase the lethal effect of the explosives.

"The finding of such devices reinforces the reality that terrorist tactics and actions were certainly supported by the regime," he said. "Further, it reinforces the need for deliberate work to root out the terrorists that are still present in Iraq."

Regular objects were also being converted into deadly devices, such as marble-looking coffee tables packed with explosives that can be detonated by remote control, Brooks said.

In northern Iraq, he said, U.S. troops encountered small arms fire near the city of Mosul and at an airfield just to the west of it. The attack was repulsed, but the assailants escaped.

Brooks also noted that while many hospitals and clinics in Iraq had little power or medical supplies, Saddam's regime had plenty of generators and medicines available but never delivered them.

In warehouses operated by the Iraqi Ministry of Health, U.S. forces found more generators and spare generator parts than they had expected, along with plenty of medical supplies.



*A U.S. soldier moves a barbed-wire fence in front of a long line of Iraqi people waiting to apply for a job at a U.S. forces base in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday April 21, 2003.(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)*

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# U.S. kills enemy fighter in Afghanistan

by D'Arcy Doran

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) - U.S. Special Forces killed a suspected enemy fighter in a gun battle during a night raid in southern Afghanistan, an army spokesman said Tuesday.

Thirty-six special force soldiers raided two compounds Monday night after intelligence reports said people in the area were planning attacks on U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan, Col. Roger King told a news briefing at Bagram Air Base.

Seven people were taken into custody during the raid, King said.

King said he could not say where the raid took place because the operation was continuing.

About 11,500 troops from a 23-country coalition are in Afghanistan pursuing remnants of the Taliban regime - which was expelled from power in late 2001 - and hunting down fighters of the al-Qaida terrorist network who lived under Taliban protection.

It was not immediately clear if the dead man had belonged to either group, King said.

"The reason we knew he was an enemy fighter was because he picked up an AK and started popping caps - that normally is the defining moment," King said, referring to an AK-47 assault rifle.

Southern Afghanistan was the birthplace of the Taliban.

Also on Monday, a U.S. soldier from the Charlie Company of the 27th Engineers Battalion lost part of his left foot and broke his right foot in several places after stepping on a mine at Bagram Air Base, King said.

The soldier, who was not named, was in stable condition and was being taken to a military hospital in Germany for treatment, King said.

The coalition's command center at Bagram, north of Kabul, is a former Soviet air base that was heavily mined during the 1980s.

## Ceremony honors veterans not on memorial

by New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 21 — Nearly 400 Americans who died as a result of the Vietnam War but who are not eligible to have their names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial were honored today in a ceremony that drew more than a thousand people to the memorial's site on the Mall.

The ceremony was part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's "In Memory" program, which recognizes those who died from non-battle-related causes during or after the war. Participants read the names of fathers, brothers and sons who died of the effects of Agent Orange exposure, suicides resulting from post-traumatic stress disorder and other causes not directly related to combat wounds. After the playing of taps, the participants placed certificates bearing their loved ones' names in front of the memorial.

Known as "the wall," the memorial lists the names of the men and women who died in government-defined combat zones in Southeast Asia during the war. Those who died en route to or returning from a combat area are also included, a Pentagon official said.

"Our criteria are pretty much set in stone," said Tom Campbell, a Defense Department analyst who maintains the Pentagon's database of all combat-related deaths during the Vietnam War.

Although the memorial fund is responsible for the inscription of any additional names on the memorial, the Pentagon determines eligibility, based on deaths from wounds directly related to hostilities or accidents in combat zones. The fund cannot add a name without the approval of the Defense Department.

There are 58,229 names on the wall. Since it was dedicated in 1982, 290 names have been added.



*Gloria Root of Flat Rock, Ohio, the granddaughter of Michael Staab who served in the Army in Vietnam, places a placard next to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington Monday, April 21, 2003 during a ceremony where the names of 400 Vietnam veterans who died from Agent Orange-related illness, post-traumatic stress disorder and other ailments related to their service were added to a list kept by the memorial. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)*

No one knows the precise number of Vietnam veterans who have died from noncombat-related causes, but government officials say the victims are in the tens of thousands. Many of the participants in today's ceremony said that the government should recognize their loved ones' commitment to their country.

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# Thousands of U.S. troops in Mosul in show of force

By Kieran Murray

MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters) - Thousands of U.S. soldiers poured into central Mosul in tanks and armed trucks on Tuesday in a show of force aimed at intimidating heavily armed rival factions and taking control of the divided Iraqi city.

About 50 helicopters shuttled up to 5,000 troops of the 101st Airborne Division from the outskirts of Baghdad to Mosul's airport, and then armed trucks ferried them into Iraq's third largest city.

Tank units of the army's Fourth Infantry Division also rumbled into the violence-plagued city, passing grand mosques and bombed-out buildings, as well as negotiating their way round bustling street markets.

Attack helicopters hovered overhead.

Sporadic heavy gunfire echoed along the banks of the Tigris River in the city center but there no reports of clashes between U.S. Army forces and local militia groups despite a series of gunfights with Marines in recent days.

"The key here is to show force and get the word out that the Iraqi regime is finished. Some people don't seem to have gotten that message yet," said Lieutenant Colonel Steve Countouriotis.

With rival and well-armed Arab, Kurdish and Turkmen factions vying for power in Mosul since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's rule, U.S. forces fear the city could be beset by factional fighting along ethnic and religious lines.

There has also been opposition to the U.S. invasion, especially since Marines shot dead at least seven people at a protest in the city center last week.

The Marines say they came under fire from paramilitaries but most, if not all, of the dead and wounded were civilians and senior army commanders believe the Marines may have overreacted to stone-throwing from the crowd.

"They got the wrong guys. One was a 10-year-old girl, paralyzed," one officer said.

After that incident, the Marines hunkered down at the airport on the edge of the city. But the army's move into the city center on Tuesday marked a new attempt to take control of Mosul.

"I don't like this shit one bit. I'd much rather be on my feet right now," one soldier said as his truck came to a halt, stuck in a traffic jam.

Civilians swarmed around the truck, but his security concerns were quickly dispelled as people were clearly happy to see the troops. One man jumped up and down clapped his hands outside a store where raw meat hung from dozens of hooks around the door.

Ethnic tensions have simmered in Mosul, a university city of more than one million people, posing a major problem as the United States

tries to rebuild the country.

Within hours of falling to U.S. and Kurdish fighters on April 11, Iraq's third city, riven by historic rivalry between Arabs and Kurds, descended into anarchy as looters swooped on public buildings in a frenzy of arson and plunder.

The diverse ethnic and religious mix of the largely Kurdish city was altered by Saddam's campaign to "Arabise" Iraq's northern regions. Many non-Arab citizens were forced to relinquish their Kurdish, Assyrian or Turkmen identity or face expulsion.

"All parties must adhere to their pre-war boundaries and positions... It is imperative that no ethnic or tribal group gains an advantage," Lieutenant Colonel Robert Waltemeyer told Mosul residents on Monday night in an announcement broadcast on a local television station earlier seized by U.S. troops.

Kurdish fighters took the city ahead of U.S. forces and many are still in the city. Many local residents blame them for much of the rampant looting that saw government buildings, stores and businesses stripped clean last week.

U.S. officers say they will push the Kurdish fighters out of the city in coming days and disarm paramilitaries and clansmen.

They plan to start joint patrols with local police and are also meeting with city officials to help reestablish water and electricity supplies.

But for now, the main priority is still the security of U.S. forces. In his televised announcement, Waltemeyer said the military would have less time and resources to devote to rebuilding the city if the random attacks continued.

"Although we understand these random acts of terrorists do not reflect the feelings or desires of Mosul citizens, they must cease immediately," he warned.



*Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement detachment members Damage Controlman 3rd Class Stephen Seifried, left, and Lt. j.g. Dave Yadrick, right, watch the banks of the Khawr Abd Allah waterway on their way to search the waters off Umm Qasr, Iraq on Saturday. Photo by Mark D. Faram / Military Times staff.*



# Two brothers celebrate their surprise reunion in Baghdad

*Ordnance soldier/Infantryman link up at Easter services outside Iraqi monument*

by Sig Christenson, San Antonio Express-News

BAGHDAD, Iraq — On any other Easter, Sgt. Saul Nicolas Aramboles and his brother Pfc. Edwin Aramboles would have gone together to their Catholic parish, Church of the Incarnation in upper Manhattan.

This year, with both of them in different units of the 3rd Infantry Division, they figured on attending services alone. But each whispered a quiet prayer.

"I was praying God to see him today," said Edwin Aramboles, 22, and formerly of Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic.

"Me, too," said Saul Aramboles, 24, and also a native of Santo Domingo.

Talk about Easter miracles. Saul was chatting with a priest before the Sunday afternoon Catholic service outside a monument to Iraqi soldiers lost in this country's eight-year war with Iran when Edwin walked up and thought he saw a familiar figure.

"I said, 'Brother!'"

"When (Saul) saw him, he jumped out of the seat and hugged him," said Chaplain (Capt.) David Santiago, 43, of Hinesville, Ga., and formerly Carolina, Puerto Rico. "They hugged each other for about a minute."

It was the first time the brothers had seen each other since March 18, when they were in Kuwait.

They were posted to Camp Pennsylvania, one of several permanent U.S. bases in the Kuwaiti desert, but knew they would be separated once the invasion of Iraq began.

Edwin was an infantryman in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and Saul was an M1A1 tank mechanic.

Though those were different roles that took them into different kinds of combat, both saw action. Saul fought in four battles; Edwin was in six, and at one time thought his brother was killed in action.

"Nobody told him any information about me, about how I was, if I was OK," Saul said. "He thought they were trying to protect the mission by not telling him I was dead."

After the initial shock of seeing each other wore off, the brothers spent an hour trading war stories.

Edwin recounted the day he dove for cover and fell, his head hitting a rock, and then firing 250 rounds at the enemy.

As he stood amid a group of soldiers, he described other battles, making the sounds of machine guns and gesturing.

He told of one clash with Iraqis in which he fired on the enemy as a

fellow soldier dragged a wounded comrade named German to safety.

"Damn, brother, you saved German's life," Saul said.

It is, perhaps, a tad more complicated than that.

Looking at it from the perspective of Clarence, the angel in Jimmy's Stewart's "It's a Wonderful Life," the soldier was saved as much by Saul as his tall battle-hardened brother.

That story began in New York City two weeks after 9-11.

Saul, an Army recruiter on 181st Street in upper Manhattan at the time, finally signed his brother to a three-year contract as an infantryman.

It was a way for Edwin to serve his country and get him out of the house, where he often picked fights with Saul and a younger brother, Carlos.

A bulked-up musician's bodyguard living the fast life, Edwin had a tough-guy attitude and a pregnant girlfriend he ignored.

"He used to be a bad guy," said Saul, who took it on himself to look after the woman, once renting an apartment in his name for her.

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## Ceremony honors veterans not on memorial continued

"I've been trying for over 20 years to get my brother's name on the wall," said Rebecca Halfhill. Her brother, Joseph William Craig, a member of the Air Force, died in 1964 at age 21 when his plane crashed in the Philippines on the way to Vietnam.

Ms. Halfhill said that her brother volunteered to go to Vietnam and that he should be eligible to have his name on the wall. "The fact that he was never recognized until this day has been very hard for our family," she said.

The event today "brought a certain sense of closure to the tragedy" of Vietnam, said Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of the memorial fund.

Others were not so quick to agree.

Pam Tracy, whose husband, Francis Tracy, died five years ago from complications traced to Agent Orange exposure, said she wanted a permanent memorial to those not listed on the wall.

"I feel a memory monument should be placed in the vicinity of the wall," said Ms. Tracy, who lives in Albany.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton signed legislation to create a marker to recognize those who died after the war. Supporters are still raising money for the project.

## Successful media experiment led to 'interesting dynamic,' Brooks says

by Alex Neill, Army Times staff writer

DOHA, Qatar — Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, point man for U.S. Central Command in the information campaign on the war in Iraq, gives the media mixed reviews for their handling of the big story.

The world has watched as the Army one-star deftly fielded question after question, day after day, live from Central Command headquarters here. The lanky former West Point basketball player remained the picture of military bearing under the camera's bright lights as journalists from throughout the world poked and prodded for scoops and scraps.

Standing in crisply laundered camouflage fatigues before more than 100 television, radio and print journalists — and millions of broadcast viewers — he was

unfailingly polite and answered the softball questions matter-of-factly. He was reliably vague when reporters pushed for details on troop movements, casualty figures, friendly fire incidents, commando operations and other sensitive or classified information.

### Two brothers celebrate their surprise reunion in Baghdad continued

"My mom wanted me to do something for him," said Saul, who pestered his brother for months to join the Army but kept getting the same answer: "No, no, no, no, no, no."

But with the World Trade Center in ashes, joining the Army suddenly seemed right.

Edwin signed up, married his girlfriend, and went to Fort Benning, Ga., for basic and advanced training. He then was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Regiment this past spring.

On Sunday, the two brothers couldn't stop talking — or marveling.

And they hadn't forgotten their mother's dream that two angels would watch over them in Iraq.

"I am happy you are alive," Saul said, slapping his brother's hand. "Oh, my God."

He was unflappable when journalists got testy, usually out of frustration at the vague answers.

Late Easter Sunday, Brooks took time out from his typically 18-hour day to talk with Army Times in a 75-minute exclusive interview about media coverage of the war, his high-profile role and his military career.

Topic No. 1 with Brooks was the media coverage of the war, specifically the historic move to "embed" some 600 journalists with the troops on the battlefield. He said much of the media frustration here was rooted in the information

gap created by the real-time war reporting that was being provided by the embedded journalists. With their satellite telephones and other high-tech communications gear, they often were providing colleagues at Central Command headquarters in



Doha with battlefield information before the military's public affairs team here knew anything about it.

"There's real-time information that gets put out there that we often don't have military reporting on," said Brooks. "And so when I say, 'I haven't heard or seen the report,' I mean I haven't heard or seen the report. It's not that I'm ducking it."

The rapid field reporting sometimes meant that information raced ahead of the truth, as it did when embedded journalists reported to colleagues here that three U.S. tanks were destroyed in battle near the Karbala Gap. The details, sorted out later, showed that the three vehicles were damaged but repairable.

Nevertheless, Brooks said, "The question then comes up in the briefing: 'It's reported that you had three tanks destroyed.'"

When Central Command officials denied losing three tanks, Brooks said media center journalists responded by asking, " 'But the embedded media said you did and [they're] up there in reality — why are you lying?' That becomes the perception. It's just a very interesting dynamic."

Still, he believes the embedding experiment worked out better than

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## Successful media experiment led to 'interesting dynamic,' Brooks says continued

many military leaders or media members believed it would. The journalists learned what it's like to be under fire and to share the bonds that are forged through combat, and much of the longstanding distrust between troops and journalists was erased, he said.

The military benefited from that, as well as from the ability to see the battlefield live, he said.



"When you see a task force moving down a highway into the center of Baghdad, weapons turned to flanks, destroying everything that encountered it, you get a very different picture," he said.

He believes such coverage represented the application of a lesson learned from the Gulf War, when the military greatly restricted media

access to the battlefield. Many senior military leaders believe that was a mistake, he said.

"There was lots of fighting, but there wasn't lots of coverage," he said. As a result, much of the American public held the false view that their military was "just driving through the desert."

### Early media exposure

Brooks said reporters in Doha — who represented media ranging from mainstream daily newspapers to such unlikely outlets as Popular Mechanics and ESPN — varied widely in their knowledge of military affairs. Some reporters earned marks of "A" in Brooks' estimation, while others rated only a "C." He would not grade more harshly than that, even though he said some media members "either had an agenda or did not represent themselves as journalists."

Similarly, he would not assign an overall grade to the media coverage.

"Even uninformed questions may lead you to an opportunity to help reinforce the understanding of what it is that we're doing," he said.

For Brooks, Army duty is in the blood. His father is retired Brig. Gen. Leo Brooks Sr., and his brother is Brig. Gen. Leo Brooks Jr., currently

the commandant of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Brooks said he was indoctrinated into the pressures of the media spotlight by an honor he earned as a West Point cadet himself more than 20 years ago. In his senior year of 1979-1980, he was named brigade commander, the student leader of the institution's more than 4,000 cadets. He was the first African American appointed to the prestigious post.

The honor brought immediate and intense nationwide media interest, he said. "Some of it was curiosity, but the intensity of it was not unlike this. So I really was warmed up for this a long time ago."

The honor also brought hate mail, he said, something he took as part of his education.

"It was a rich set of experiences at an early age. But I put that behind me so that I could be an infantry second lieutenant," he said, referring to his post-graduation career track.

He accepts that he is seen by some as a symbol of success as an African American in the Army, but called that "a byproduct of who I am, not a focus. So if I'm devoted to my duty, to my wife, if I'm part of a family in which values are important and all that reflects on me as a positive symbol, then that's mine to carry."

Brooks was an academic standout at West Point and a star forward on the basketball team, under then-Coach Mike Krzyzewski, now the near-legendary leader of the Duke University basketball team. Even then, Brooks was keeping the long days that are his routine. It led to one of his not-so-proud moments, when he fell asleep while studying and eating pizza, with embarrassing results.

"Yes indeed, I found myself face down in a pizza at one point," he said with a laugh, a rare departure from a friendly but reserved manner. "And of course, cadets being as they are, they got a picture of it. Someone got a picture. I've got to burn it."

Always an infantryman

The ability to get by on four or five hours sleep has served Brooks



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# New act seeks flexibility in military personnel decisions

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 22, 2003 – If there's a single word that describes the Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act, it is "flexibility," said David Chu, defense undersecretary for personnel and readiness.

Coalition forces in Iraq have demonstrated what flexibility can bring to the battlefield. U.S. forces involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom were more agile and better able to respond to the unexpected than any force in history.

The Defense Department wants to get the same advantages from flexibility in personnel systems, Chu said during an interview. "The system needs to be able to respond to new and unexpected circumstances," Chu said. "That's really at the heart of what we're proposing here."

The act would give the department new means of shaping the military and civilian workforce. The act's effect on military personnel could be wide-ranging.

One big change is with senior officers. "It is the precept that we are going to be more purposeful in how long an officer spends in a particular position," Chu said.

Now, senior officers tend to change jobs every 18 months to two years. "If it's an operational job – running a division, running a corps – that's perfectly reasonable," he said. "In fact, after two years, you probably need a rest after a job like that."

But if the job entails changing an institution, or reshaping processes, the chief needs to spend more than two years in the job. "That's what experience and common sense tell us," Chu said. For certain jobs, senior military leaders may spend four to six years to see change through successfully.

Chu said the legislation will help change the culture of the organization. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has said on many occasions that senior leaders must be in a job long enough to see how the changes they have instituted are working in the organization. "The expectation is that if you are successful, you will stay there from three, four or five years," Chu said.

Another aspect of the legislation will allow senior talent to stay around longer. "The secretary asks why do we throw away our four-star talent after just one such assignment," Chu said. "Shouldn't they be invited to consider another assignment?"

He said Marine Gen. James Jones is a case in point. After serving as the commandant of the Marine Corps, Jones "was invited to become our military commander in Europe."

Upper age limit for officers is 62. To continue to serve they may need to stay until age 65 or 66.

By itself, this initiative would slow promotions at the senior level. But part and parcel with this initiative is legislation to allow any officer of one-star rank or above to retire with full benefits without

serving the full three years required by law today.

This would allow promotion to flag rank to stay about where it is now, Chu said.

Chu said these changes will not mean a big shift for enlisted personnel now, but he anticipates some changes – especially for those in higher ranks – in the future.

If Congress accepts these changes, it will mean significant changes for reserve component members. "We need to change our paradigm of how we view the reserves," Chu said. "As the current mobilization illustrates, the reserves are an equally critical volunteer force for the United States. We need to be able to use reservists properly going forward. And one of the problems the department has is we have a mindset that reservists serve 39 days a year and that's it."

The 39 days comes from a reservist serving a weekend a month plus a two-week active-duty period. "That paradigm comes out of a different era, and it's not consistent with current realities," he said.

The new view is that reservists are people interested in serving their country, but on a less than full-time basis. "We need to 'advantage' them," he said. "We need to make it possible for them to serve in the best way, given our needs and their inclinations."

So, 39 days may not be the right number of days per year, he said. Given the skill, the number may be less or more. Given the needs of the country, the number may be less or more. "Take linguists for example," Chu said. "We may not need to see you 39 days a year in most years. But that year we need you, we may see you a lot more."

Chu said the legislation will create "a continuum of service – in that it is not just 39 days versus 365 – there may be some number in between."

Shifting back and forth between the active and reserve components would become easier. An active duty service member may find that for personal reasons he or she cannot serve full time. That person could step out of that active service into a reserve status with the prospect that he or she can go back on active status at a later time.

"By serving in the reserves, they keep their skills up, they keep their connections up, they know how to do their job," Chu said. "We have a lot of people who would be interested in that option, given the realities of family life in America today."

It would also serve to strengthen reserve units, and would certainly save money. "We've already paid for these people's training," Chu said. "If they go off into civilian life and we never hear from them again, that's a great loss for the United States."

The legislation would allow DoD to transfer about 320,000 military positions in the active force to civilian status – either civil servant or contractor. The United States needs military personnel to perform



*A shepherd rides his donkey past soldiers with the 4th Infantry Division patrolling an area in northern Iraq on Monday. AP photo by Saurabh Das.*

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## Successful media experiment led to 'interesting dynamic,' Brooks says continued

well here. His day starts at "5:05" every morning and is spent running from meeting to meeting, coordinating the military's operational picture and how it will be portrayed in the daily briefing. It's much like a television news crew that's always on deadline.

His background as an infantry leader serves him well in understanding the developments on the battlefield and the interests of all the military components. It's clear that his heart is still with the troops in the field, particularly the 3rd Infantry Division. He commanded the division's 1st Brigade in the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo until last summer.

The tour there had its dangers, but it was not combat. When the war in Iraq started, he was an observer as many of the men he commanded raced toward Baghdad, leading the coalition charge.

"Whenever you see your unit perform well, the first thing you get is a tremendous sense of pride," he said. "The next thing you get is a degree of concern, like a parent.

"Some people have criticized me for not getting up there and talking about how many people were killed in a given day," he said. "These are people I know; they're never going to be a number to me."

Then, just for a moment, he strayed off message, the soldier in him

silencing the spokesman.

"Whether that's ... Pentagon policy or not, that's someone else's choice," he said. "My choice is to not treat my friends like numbers."

## New act seeks flexibility in military personnel decisions continued

military missions. "There are other new military missions people would like to use the active duty end strength for," Chu said.

Chu gave some examples of the types of jobs that could be transferred. "One of my favorite stories is if you go to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., and you go to the lovely visiting officers quarters they have, you often find behind the desk checking you in a Navy yeoman," he said. "That person is there because of our personnel practices, but that is not a job that requires a military person to perform.

He said a broader example involves the DoD research community. A significant number of researchers are military. "Now you obviously need some military personnel in those jobs, but do we have to have as many as we do now?" he asked. "Is that the right way to staff these institutions, keeping in mind what we need military personnel for is to operate and man military units."



## U.S. general in South Korea sees North threat

SEOUL (Reuters) - Pyongyang poses many threats to global stability, the commander of U.S. forces in South Korea said on Tuesday, just a day before the United States begins nuclear talks with the North in Beijing.

General Leon LaPorte mentioned communist North Korea's crumbling economy, an active nuclear weapons program, proliferation of missile technologies, large conventional military forces and special forces aimed at South Korea.

"Today, the current military demarcation line between North and South Korea is the most heavily armed in the world and it remains an arena for potential confrontation," he told a forum hosted by the conservative Korea Freedom League in Seoul.

"North Korea poses many threats to global stability," LaPorte told the civic group. North Korea has also turned up the rhetoric ahead of the talks. Analysts say both sides will probably adopt a more measured tone at the table.

LaPorte, who commands the 37,000 U.S. troops based in South Korea, did not mention the talks set to begin in Beijing on Wednesday over the North's suspected nuclear weapons ambitions and Pyongyang's desire for security guarantees.

A U.S. team led by James Kelly, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs, was due in Beijing on Tuesday.

China is also taking part in the three-day talks but it is not clear what role it will play. One East Asia analyst said China was likely to keep to the sidelines as much as possible.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Beijing said Kelly would meet Li Gun, deputy director-general of U.S. affairs at the North Korean Foreign

Ministry. Fu Ying, head of Asian affairs at China's Foreign Ministry, would also take part.

The United States wants to talk to the North Koreans about closing down their nuclear program, while North Korea wants assurances the United States will not attack it.

South Korea, excluded from what will be the first formal talks since the nuclear crisis erupted last October, said it will send a senior diplomat to Beijing to monitor the meeting.

Seoul will send envoys to Pyongyang for ministerial talks at the weekend expected to focus on South Korean aid for the North.

LaPorte said North Korea, branded part of an "axis of evil" by the United States along with pre-war Iraq and Iran, saw the military as its only source of world influence.

"Adding to the increased tensions is the fact that North Korea has not shown 'sincere attempts' to address these threats to peace with the international community," he said.

North Korea has stepped up its own rhetoric but revised a statement that had said last week Pyongyang was "successfully reprocessing" nuclear fuel rods, a "red line" for Washington.

"The U.S. military is now even talking about bombing North Korean nuclear facilities," the ruling party newspaper Rodong Sinmun said, calling for South Korea to take an anti-U.S. stand.

The nuclear standoff began in October, when the U.S. said the North

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*A member of the weapons of mass destruction unit of the Washington Army National Guard heads back into the mobil laboratory outside the U.S. Postal processing facility in Tacoma, Wash., where a white powder substance was found Tuesday morning, April 22, 2003. The mail distribution facility was evacuated early Tuesday after a white powder was found in two envelopes, but a federal source said comprehensive tests showed no signs of any biotoxins. (AP Photo/ John Froschauer)*

## A-bomb birthplace marks 60th anniversary

by Leslie Hoffman

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) - Los Alamos National Laboratory celebrated its 60th anniversary Tuesday amid uncertainty over who will end up running the birthplace of the atomic bomb in the years to come.

A parade of speakers - from National Nuclear Security Administration head Linton Brooks to Gov. Bill Richardson, a former energy secretary - commended the weapons facility for decades of cutting-edge science.

"Los Alamos owes its existence to a marriage of science and the fighting spirit of America," Brooks said.

However, the lab that grew out of the secret World War II Manhattan Project is now fighting to save its 60-year management contract with the University of California. A review of the contract requested by Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham is expected to be completed next week.



At the heart of the review are management, purchasing and inventory problems at the lab.

Allegations of weak financial oversight, costly cases of equipment theft and financial fraud arose late last year. The laboratory also was criticized for firing two investigators. Several lab officials have resigned or been demoted or fired in recent months.

UC President Richard Atkinson said the university "cannot escape the experience of the last few months," but said the reality is that Los Alamos employees are committed to their scientific and national security mission.

With management improvements the lab and university are instituting, "I'm confident that we will get to where we need to go," Atkinson said.

## U.S. general in South Korea sees North threat continued

admitted it had an active covert program to make highly enriched uranium for nuclear arms, beside a plutonium program frozen under a 1994 pact with the United States.

This time, the U.S. goal is to eliminate, rather than merely freeze, those programs — a tall order, experts say.

"I think the talks that are beginning on Wednesday will not solve the nuclear issue in the short term," said East Asia analyst James Hoare, a former British diplomat who was London's first envoy to Pyongyang. He described the North as fearful.

"Will the North Koreans cheat? I suspect they probably will," Hoare told reporters in Seoul. "Frightened people usually do."



*An U.S. infantryman of the 101st Airborne Division keeps a photo of his sweetheart close to him in his kevlar helmet in Baghdad, Saturday, April 19, 2003. (AP Photo Spc. Robert Woodward, HO)*



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*While seen a wreckage of the car, Iraqi police man stands near a destroyed car as he stands guard in front of a government office in Mosul, northern Iraq on Monday, April, 21, 2003.(AP Photo/ Hasan Sarbakhshian)*



*A U.S. soldier is seen reflected on the window of a bus with Iraqi men, stopped at a checkpoint in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, Tuesday, April 22, 2003. (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)*



*Iraqi boys talk to a US Army soldier in front of the entrance of Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital Tuesday April 22 2003. (AP Photo/ Dusan Vranic)*



*Jo Myong Rok, second from left, first vice-chairman of the National Defense Commission of North Korea is greeted by Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission at a welcoming ceremony in Beijing, China Monday, April 21, 2003. (AP Photo/Xinhua, Rao Aimin)*



*Retired U.S. general Jay Garner, overseeing Iraq's reconstruction, is greeted by a student during a visit to the university in the northern Iraqi city of Sulaimaniya April 22, 2003. Garner told an emotional crowd of Kurdish leaders and students that their self-governed region was a model for Iraq. Reuters photo.*